

## COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGIES TO PROTECT DRINKING WATER FROM HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS

June 23 | 12:00PM CST | HAB Impacts to Drinking Water and Current Management Outlook | ~ 2 hours

*Widespread disturbance of watersheds and a warming climate have enhanced the occurrence of harmful algal blooms (HABs) that present direct threats to human health. Comprehensive, interdisciplinary management strategies are needed from the watershed to the tap to best protect drinking water from HAB threats. This introductory webinar for the seminar series will begin with short perspectives from the collaborating groups hosting the webinar series. Following comments from host organizations, three technical presentations will be provided.*



***Our first presentation by Dr. Jennifer Graham will describe cyanotoxin occurrence in the United States, with an emphasis on the last 20 years. The unique challenges associated with the study of cyanotoxins will be discussed along with recent technological advances that have enhanced the scientific study of cyanotoxin occurrence and the current understanding of causal factors.***

Dr. Graham currently serves as the harmful algal bloom coordinator for the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Water Mission Area. She also represents the USGS on the Interagency Working Group on Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia.



***Our second presentation by Dr. Lorraine Backer will review concerns that arise when blooms become harmful. Properties that make a bloom harmful and a brief description of the toxins produced by algae and cyanobacteria will be reviewed. The public health perspective, including emerging issues, the public health response, and current research at CDC will also be discussed.***

Dr. Backer is a senior environmental epidemiologist for the Health Studies Section at the National Center for Environmental Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta, Georgia. She has over 20 years of experience in environmental epidemiology.



***Our final presentation co-presented by Dr. Beckye Stanton and Mr. Ben Holcomb will describe the efforts of the Interstate Technology Regulatory Council (ITRC)—a state-led coalition working to reduce barriers to the use of innovative environmental technologies and processes—to develop and disseminate a synthesis of the latest strategies for prevention and management of Harmful Cyanobacterial Blooms (HCBs).***

Dr. Stanton (left) is a toxicologist with the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment and is primarily focused on HABs (both freshwater and marine) with particular emphasis on collaboration and outreach.

Mr. Holcomb (right) works for the Utah Division of Water Quality where he manages the WQ Standards and Technical Services Section. He has worked at UT DWQ for 12 years and his past work includes salmon restoration, water quality management, and tribal sovereignty in the Pacific NW.

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